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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Second Mechanized Regiment in Karpin of the Eggesin KVP Division

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614903

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT 10 April to 30 December 1953DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED 5 March 1954REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. The 2d Mech Kommando was subordinate to the Bereitschaft in Eggesin and was quartered in newly constructed barracks installations near Karpin. Leading officers of the units included Colonel Weiss, commanding officer of the Bereitschaft; Major Lackhaus (fnu), commanding officer of the 2d Mech Kommando; and Captain Paul (fnu), commanding officer of the 1st Bn. The actual strength of the 2d Mech Kommando was about two thirds of authorized strength. Its organization was like that of the other mechanized Kommandos of the Bereitschaft in Eggesin. Only two Soviet advisers were still assigned to the 2d Mech Kommando.¹

2. The new training year commenced on 1 December 1953 and was scheduled to end in October 1954. Continuous alert exercises began in early December 1953. Four short-time alerts were held weekly. Major alert exercises were confined to a total of two. The last major alert practice in mid-December 1953 involved a march exercise of about 15 kilometers, the securing of a hill given up by the enemy against potential attacks, and entrenching of individual soldiers. About 60 officers and Soviet advisers inspected the construction of field fortifications during this exercise. The time-table for the alert practices provided that the men fall out with field pack after 5 minutes, and that the entire company leave for the assembling point within 15 minutes after receiving weapons, equipment and rations. Preparatory measures made it possible to observe this time-table.²

3. In about late November 1953, the leader of the 1st Co told his men that from now on the KVP had a jurisdiction of its own. In about mid-December 1953, a staged trial was held in the single-story movie theater in the installation of the 1st Mech Kommando in Karpin. All officers and enlisted men of each company with either excellent or poor records were required to attend this trial.³

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1. [] Comment. The organization of a mechanized regiment is known from numerous previous reports by other deserters. Judging from the authorized strength of a Soviet mechanized regiment of 2,520 men, two thirds of authorized strength are 1,680 men. [] indicated that the actual strength of each of the three mechanized regiments of the Eggesin Division was about 1,500 men in late September 1953. The strength of the units was possibly increased by inductions.

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2. [] Comment. Winter training at most KVP units commenced prior to mid-December 1953. March exercises and minor combat practices were held by other units still in mid-January 1954.

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3. [] Comment. Military jurisdiction for KVP units was introduced in the fall of 1953. Judge advocate officers were appointed at field-command level.

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